(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Shri D. N. Kashyap is a retired officer of the Government of Punjab and pension/gratuity is to be sanctioned by the Government of Punjab.

Agreement with Burmese Foreign Minister on maritime boundaries, citizenship etc.

578. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the decisions taken in September last during the talks with the Burmese Foreign Minister regarding delimitation of land maritime boundaries, pensioners' liabilities, compensation of Indian assets in Burma, citizenship for about 2 lakh people of Indian origin in Burma and Joint action against cross-border insurgency; and

(b) the plan and time schedule alongwith the targets fixed and the follow up action of the decisions so taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on Delimitation of the Maritime boundary in the Andaman Sea, Coco Channnel and the Bay of Bengal signed in Rangoon in December 1986 were exchanged. With this, the Agreement has come into force.

Discussions were also held on the Land boundary. Both sides felt that demarcation of the balance of 106 miles of the total 192 miles of common boundary between the two countries should be completed as soon as possible.

The question of outstanding pensionary liabilities of ex-employees of the Government of Burma, payment of compensation to Indians and Indian organisations whose assets were nationalised in the sixties, and the grant of citizenship of about 2 lakh stateless persons of Indian origin in Burma were also discussed. The Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that these issues would be considered by them at an early date. Cooperation in the control of cross-border insurgency was also discussed.

(b) The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burma had come to India on a goodwill visit and to exchange Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on the Delimination of the Maritime Boundary. No plans, time schedules or targets were specifically laid down.

Foreign Military bases in Pakistan

579. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 13th October, 1987 to the effect that foreign military facilities and bases are active in Pakistan and some of these have been in existence for the last four decades;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have been keeping an eye over those bases; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to media reports, Pakistan has been providing USA with base facilities at a number of places, particularly along the Makran Coast, Peshawar and Karachi.

(c) and (d) Both the USA and Pakistan have denied the existence of any such bases in Pakistan. Government are, however, maintaining a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Troops Movement in Pak -occupied Kashmir

580. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be plesaed to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which apeoared in the Hindustan Times dated 16th October, 1987 to the effect that the pattern of troops movement in Pak-occupied Kashmir, too close to the onset of winter, has created apprehensions in responsible quarters that Pak may embrak on yet another adventurous action in snowbound heights during the course of this month;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Government have seen the media report but have no confirmed information to suggest any unusual movement on concentration of troops in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

(c) Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness

Irrigable capacity of the Brahmaputra

581. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area of land in hectares being covered by the Brahmaputra in Assam;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to utilise these area for cultivation; and

(c) whether there is any alternate proposal other than the proposed dams, to tame the Brahmaputra and to prevent thereby floods and erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) About 56 lakh ha.

(b) Against the gross cropped area of 32.88 lakh ha., the ultimate irrigation potential in the basin has been assessed to be about 27 lakh ha. The irrigation potential achieved till the end of VIth Plan is 3.58 lakh ha while the target set for VIIth Plan is 4.09 lakh ha.

(c) Besides storage reservoirs, these include watershed management and river training works; and the short-term measures include embankments anti-erosion works and drainage schemes.

Electoral reforms

582. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the electoral reforms proposed by Government of India; and

(b) whether proposed reforms include meeting of the election expenses of candidates to the Assemblies and Parliament by Government?